

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1041

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE EVAN MECHAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 The Honorable Evan Mecham died on February 21, 2008 at the age of
2 eighty-three.

3 Born on May 12, 1924 in Duchesne, Utah, Evan Mecham was one of six
4 children of Adelbert and Ina Mecham. He grew up on a country farm, the
5 youngest of five sons. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces at
6 the age of eighteen and eventually earned his pilot's license. He flew photo
7 reconnaissance and fighter escort missions over Europe during World War II.
8 On March 7, 1945, he was shot down over Germany and was held as a prisoner of
9 war until liberated by General Patton's army shortly before the war ended in
10 Europe. Evan Mecham returned home and married his high school sweetheart,
11 Florence Lambert, on June 11, 1945 at the LDS temple in Salt Lake City.

12 Evan Mecham successfully operated a Pontiac agency in Ajo, Arizona
13 before moving the franchise to Glendale in 1954. He distinguished himself as
14 a successful businessman and automobile dealer before being elected to the
15 Arizona Senate in 1960 where he served one term. He published his own
16 newspaper, the Evening American, from 1963 to 1973, and in 1986 he was
17 elected as Governor of Arizona. During his term, he was successful in his
18 efforts to stop tax increases, reestablish the Arizona Department of Weights
19 and Measures, reform the civil court system and expand the state's health
20 care program for the poor to provide long-term care for elderly and disabled
21 individuals. He was also instrumental in uniting the nation's governors to
22 urge Congress to repeal the 55 mph speed limit. Though his tenure was
23 fraught with controversy, Evan Mecham met the challenges of adversity head on
24 and remained committed to his unwavering beliefs in states' rights and
25 personal freedoms.

26 Following his departure from politics, Evan Mecham wrote several books.
27 He gave freely of his time, energy and efforts in numerous capacities in the
28 LDS church, including such positions as bishop, high counselor, gospel
29 doctrine teacher and home teacher.

30 Dedicated to his family, Evan Mecham will be greatly missed by his wife
31 of sixty-two years, Florence, his children, Suzanne, Dennis, Christine, Eric,
32 Teresa, Kyle and Lance, his brothers, Wayne, Willard and Arnold, his sister,
33 Jean, and his twenty-nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

34 Therefore

35 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
36 Representatives concurring:

37 That the Members of the Legislature express regret at the death of the
38 Honorable Evan Mecham and extend their deepest condolences to his surviving
39 family members.